



EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATOR



MFRI Program modified for Montgomery
County Fire & Rescue Service

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

ENROLLMENT AND DOCUMENTS



- Finalize registration
 - Enrolled – everyone present?
 - Waitlist
- Driver's License & History
 - Need a photocopy of current driver's license
 - Need a non-certified copy of motor vehicle record
- Class Roster
 - Verify the pre-printed information and fill in the blanks

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

ATTENDANCE



- Sign-in – EVERY class
- Every session is mandatory
 - If you must miss, discuss with the lead instructor as soon as possible
 - Accommodations for absences – sole discretion of the lead instructor
 - Make-ups must be documented
- Refer to the syllabus
 - For session dates
 - For session times – beware of night driving sessions
 - For session topics

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION



- Written Exam
 - 70% is passing
 - Pre-Trip
 - Vehicle Systems
 - Safe Driving Principles & Laws
- Practical Exercises
 - Pre-trip inspection
 - Air brake test
 - Road behavior evaluation
 - Cone course – zero cones; <10 minutes



PROGRAM GOAL



To provide each driver/operator
with the basic skills and
knowledge required to safely,
efficiently, and effectively operate
light and medium vehicles

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Cone Course

Pre-Trip

Road Driving



PRACTICAL EXERCISES

- Pre-trip Inspection & Brake Test
- Controlled Course
 - Pivot Point Figure 8
 - Parallel Parking
 - Diminishing clearance
 - Confined space turnaround
 - Offset Alley
 - Alley dock
 - Serpentine
- Public Roadway - Driving Behavior



PRACTICAL EXERCISES

PRE-TRIP & BRAKE TEST



- PAGES – Pre-Trip Inspection
 - The candidate will explain the purpose of and perform a pre-trip inspection on the vehicle.
 - The pre-trip inspection will be completed in accord with Maryland Commercial Motor Vehicle Guidelines.
- PAGES – Brake Test
 - Candidate will conduct a pre-trip check of the vehicle air brake system per MVA guidelines in the order shown on the PAGES.

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

CONTROLLED COURSE



- Purpose is to familiarize you with the turning characteristics, dimensions, and visibility of heavy apparatus
- Performed under ideal conditions in a controlled area
- Similar obstacles in the “real world” require greater assessment and pose much greater consequences if you make a mistake
- Focus on vehicle position, proper hand and body position in the cab, and mirror use
 - Learn to set yourself up for the next move
 - Gain depth perception and blind spot awareness
- Successful completion:
 - Zero cones struck
 - <10 minutes

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

CONTROLLED COURSE



- All students and instructors on the course must wear high-visibility attire
 - Must include reflective for night driving
- No students on the course unless driving or spotting
- Speeds below 15mph
- No horseplay, reckless driving, or other unprofessional behavior will be tolerated

Consider the cone course area an IDLH – respect it as such

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

CONTROLLED COURSE



- Dress appropriately for the weather – you will be outdoors
 - Wear layers that you can shed while driving
- Stay hydrated and nourished
 - Bring a water bottle
 - Meal breaks are one hour
- If you see something – say something
 - Alert the instructors to safety issues
 - Alert the instructors to mechanical issues or warning lights on the vehicles

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

PIVOT POINT AND PARALLEL PARKING

- Students become initially familiar with the dimensions and pivot points of the vehicles
- Vehicles differ due to steering cramp angle, wheelbase, number of axles, and vehicle width

Where does this vehicle pivot?



How does a second axle change the pivot?

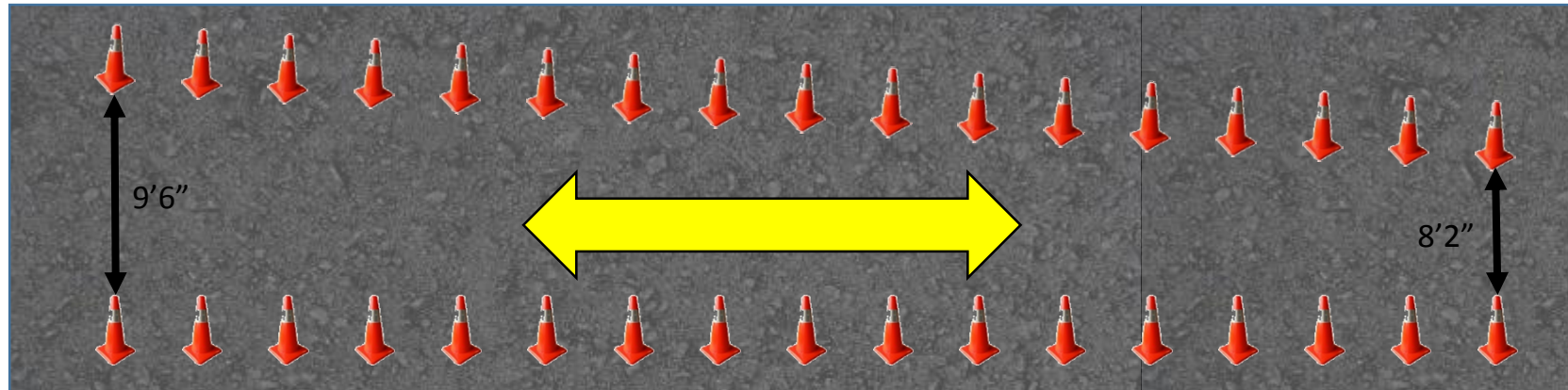


PRACTICAL EXERCISES

DIMINISHING CLEARANCE

Helps the student to:

- Steer in a straight line while moving forward and backward
- Judge vehicle width as clearance changes

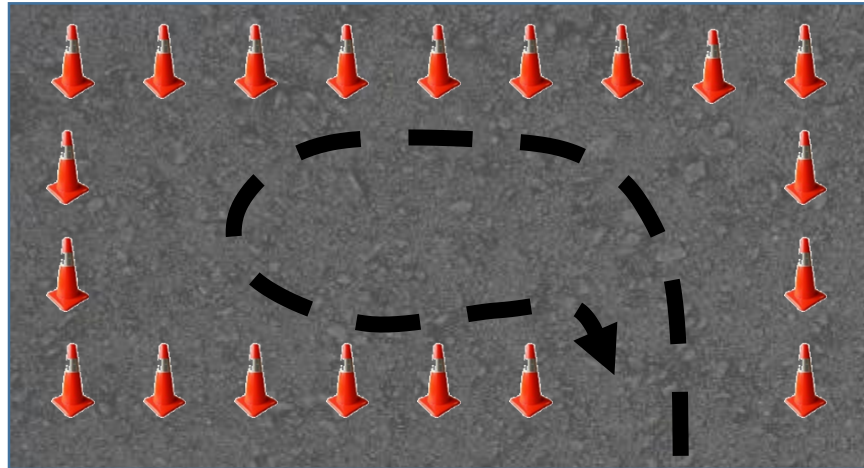


PRACTICAL EXERCISES

CONFINED SPACE TURNAROUND

Helps the student to:

- Develop skills to turn around in narrow spaces
- Refine vehicle positioning to minimize backing

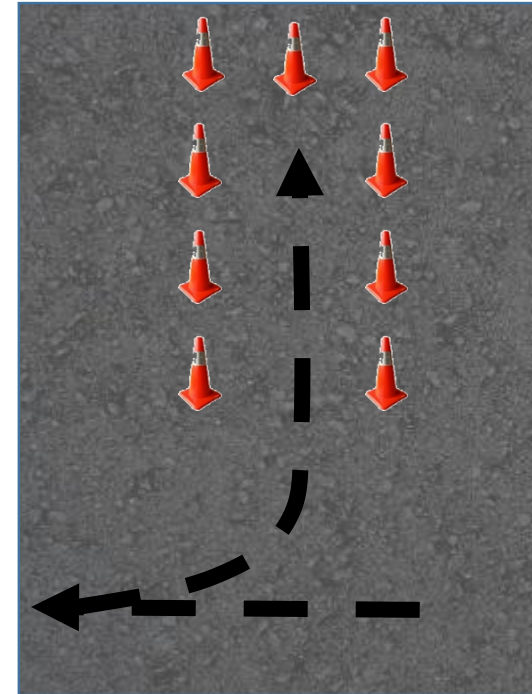


PRACTICAL EXERCISES

ALLEY DOCK

Helps the student to:

- Position for backing into a defined area or bay
- Improve depth perception and locate the apparatus tailboard
- Encourage use of both mirrors
- Develop backing in a straight line

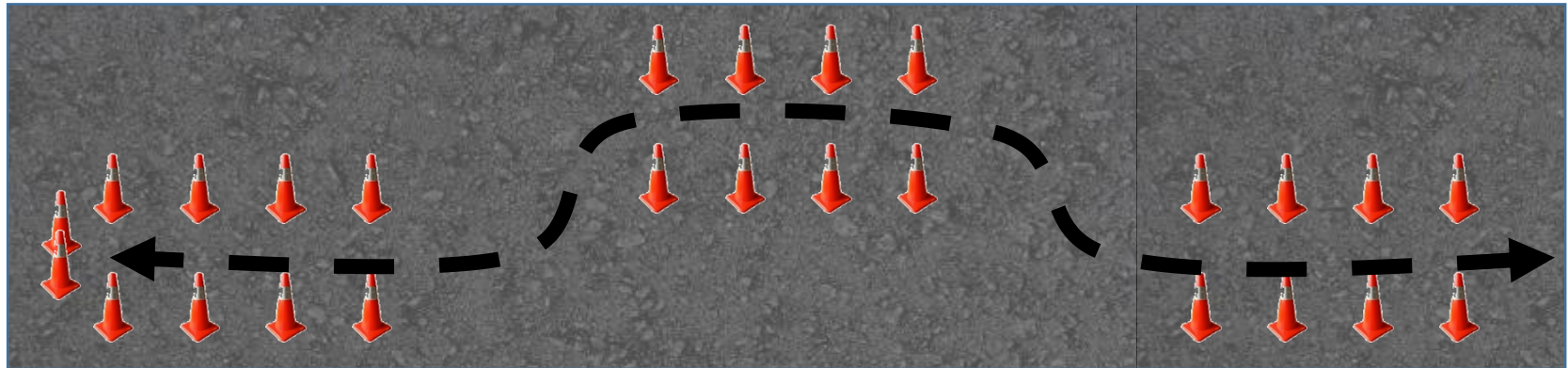


PRACTICAL EXERCISES

OFFSET ALLEY

Helps students to:

- Refine vehicle pivot points and develop precision positioning
- Learn vehicle dimensions
- Monitor multiple contact points on the vehicle at one time



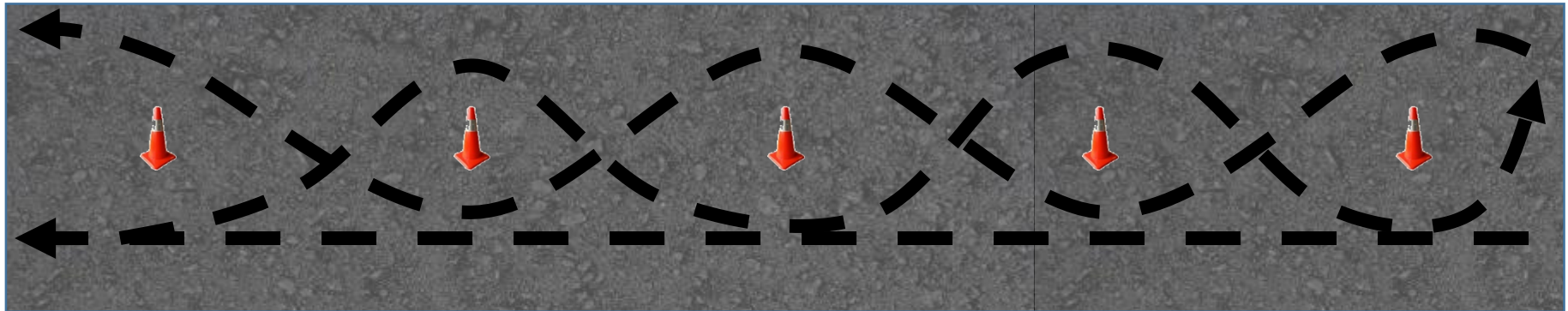
PRACTICAL EXERCISES

SERPENTINE



Helps students to:

- Refine pivot points while in continuous motion
- Reduce over-steering
- Switch smoothly between mirrors



PRACTICAL EXERCISES

PUBLIC ROADWAY – DRIVING BEHAVIOR



- Students will be exposed to a variety of road types, times of day, and traffic conditions
- Students are evaluated on:
 - Pre-departure checks
 - Steering control
 - Smith System application
- Conducted during daylight and night
- Ties together the knowledge and skills reviewed in the course

SUMMARY



- This class teaches skills and knowledge that should remain with you for the rest of your fire service experience
- Operating fire apparatus is one of the most dynamic tasks you will do – high frequency/high risk
- The apparatus is a rolling billboard for the fire department – what message do you want to send?

For next class – you must bring a non-certified copy of your driving record.